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OFFICE OF CEREAL INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, U. S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE

RUST INVESTIGATIONS

(Dr. H. B. Humphrey, Pathologist in Charge)
Barberry Eradication. (Dr. F. E. Kempton, Pathologist in Charge)

PROGRESS OF BARBERRY ERADICATION, 1922

(Extract from Cereal Courier, Dec. 31, 1922)

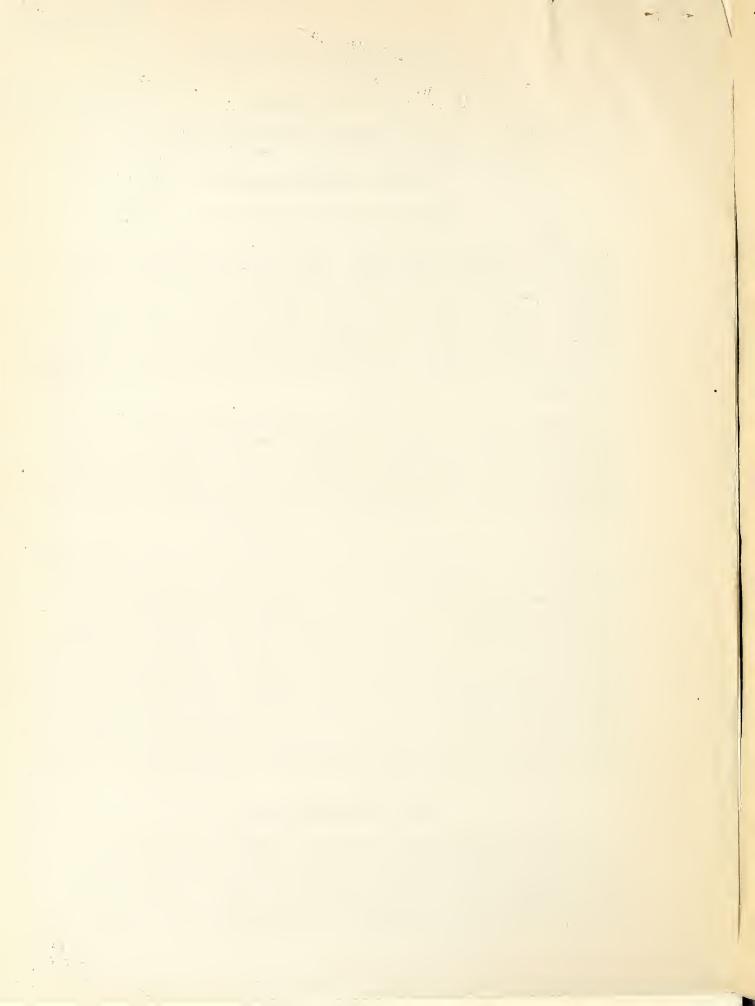
Marked progress has been made in all phases of the barberry eradication campaign during 1922. With the increased Federal appropriation which became available July 1, and with excellent weather conditions for field operations, an area equivalent to 197 counties was surveyed in the 13 cooperating States. This includes 15 counties in Minnesota and one county in Iowa which were surveyed on State funds. A total of 209,397 bushes were located on 5,918 properties and 729,721 bushes were removed from 6,408 properties. Of these, 500,000 were bushes 6 to 18 inches in height which had been found and reported previously in one woodland in Grant County, Wis.

Excellent cooperation has been extended by farmers and other individual property owners, by newspapers, and by organizations of bankers, business men, railroad officials, millers, etc. County farm organizations have shown their increased interest in the campaign by urging that their counties be surveyed as soon as possible. Demonstration material has been furnished to each State and used to advantage at State and county fairs and other public gatherings.

Through the cooperative efforts of the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust, an organization composed of the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture, a representative of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, and the President of the State Farm Bureau Federation or corresponding farmers' organization of each State interested, and an additional membership at large composed of representatives of milling associations, railroads, implement dealers, bankers, National farmers' organization, and other business interests, much assistance has been given in sending publicity material to all classes of people in the barberry eradication area. This included charts with samples of barberries, calling attention to the losses caused by this shrub, placed in banks, railway stations, elevators, and other public buildings in most of the cities and towns of the 13 States. Because of the special interest of these organizations, individual property owners have cooperated even better than in the past.

Rust Spreads from Bushes

Intensive studies have been made of the spread of rust from barberries to surrounding fields of grains and grasses. These areas of local rust epidemics have been mapped and the degree of infection noted at various distances from the barberry bushes. Several of these local epidemics in the vicinity of Northfield, Minn., spread until they met in one extensive epidemic. At Burlington, Colo., 12 bushes



were responsible for an epidemic that spread from 3 to 5 miles on each side of the town. Near Alert, Decatur Co., Ind., one barberry bush was responsible for the almost complete destruction of wheat in two nearby fields and lesser losses in an area of 20 square miles. Farmers estimated that the financial loss caused by this one bush during the summer of 1922 was at least \$12,000.

Hunting Rust with Airplanes

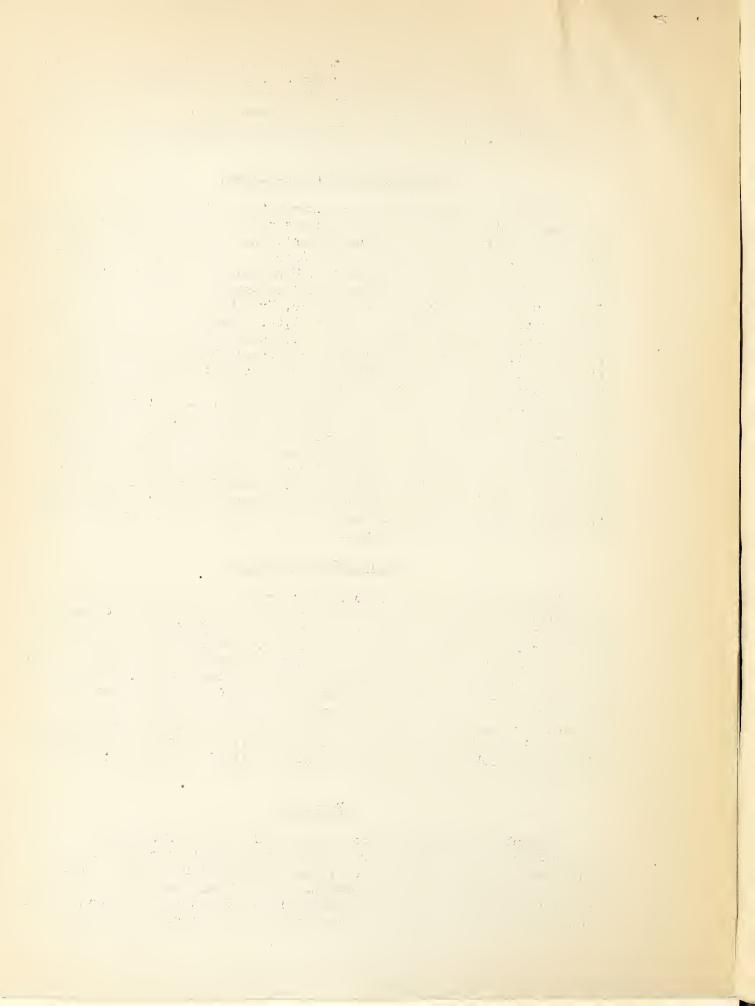
Airplanes were used to ascertain how far rust spores were distributed by air currents. This investigation was made possible by the cooperation of the Air Service of the War Department, which furnished planes and pilots. Flights were made from fields at San Antonio, Texas; Fort Crook, Omaha, Nebr.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Minneapolis, Minn. (in cooperation with the Minnesota National Guard); Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill.; McCock Field, Dayton, Ohio; and Camp Knox, Louisville, Ky. Spores of stem rust were found in the air at altitudes of from 1,000 to 10,000 feet. Spores which were caught at altitudes ranging from 1,000 to 7,000 feet germinated fairly well. The average percentage of spores which germinated was 11.2. It is significant that the number of spores caught in the air decreases rather rapidly as the distance from rusted grains and grasses increases. There was no evidence that any appreciable amount of rust developed in the barberry eradication area as a result of spores blown from the South. As far as observations go, in the barberry eradication area, the only rust which had developed by the end of the first week in June clearly came from local barberries, from which rust already had been traced . directly in some localities to a distance of at least a mile and a half. Apparently, epidemics developing in the barberry eradication area result from spores blown from local infection areas near barberries rather than from spores blown from the South.

Escaped Barberry Bushes

The spread of escaped barberries to open woodlands, fence rows, rocky ledges, brushy pastures, and stream banks has become the most sericus problem of the campaign. During the past year, 133,365 escaped bushes have been found on 830 properties. The great number of these were in the States of Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. During the entire campaign, 3,760,351 barberries were found on farms, only 331,801 of which were cultivated while 3,428,550 have been escaped bushes. These areas are being carefully mapped in order to facilitate the complete eradication of seedlings and sprouts. All bushes in representative areas in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio have been treated either with rock salt or sodium arsenite as trials of that method of eradicating escaped barberries.

Resurvey

A complete resurvey has been made in 201 of the 276 counties surveyed in previous years, and a resurvey also has been made in all cities and towns covered in the original farm-to-farm survey. In this resurvey, 83,740 sprouts and thousands of seedlings were found and removed during the past year. It has become evident that several resurveys will be necessary. If the entire root system is not removed when barberry



bushes are dug, sprouts may grow even from small bits of the rocts which are left in the soil. To go back after a bush has been dug and find all of these sprouts is difficult and expensive. Furthermore, it is almost impossible to remove all of the roots which have entwined with the roots of trees or which have grown into the crevices between rocks. In those areas where there are many escaped bushes, tremendous numbers of seedlings also may appear as long as three years after the bushes have been dug. To destroy all of these seedlings by digging is almost impossible. Attempts therefore have been made to kill the bushes by means of chemicals.

Killing Bushes with Chemicals

Experiments on chemical methods of eradication were begun in September, 1921. About 40 different chemicals were tried on large barberry bushes in the field. Two chemicals, rock salt and sodium arsenite, have given uniformly good results, meeting the 3 chief requirements, namely, availability, cheapness, and effectiveness. Crushed rock salt fulfills all these requirements. For the average-sized barberry, 10 pounds of rock salt piled around the base is certain death. It may be applied at any time of the year. A dilute solution of sodium arsenite, one pound to 5 gallons of water, applied at the rate of 2 gallons per bush as a drench at the base has been found to be effective when applied at any time in the growing season, but its action when applied in the late fall and winter is not yet fully determined.

Barberry Bees

Barberry bees or eradication days have been organized to rid some communities of all barberries, especially in areas where many barberry bushes have escapedifrom cultivation or where large barberry hedges occur. These gatherings serve not only to get the barberries removed but to educate the members of the community on the relation of barberries to stem rust and give valuable publicity to the campaign. Such bees were held near Pine Island, and Red Wing, Minn., Mingo, Ohio, and Alert, Ind.

Five-Year Results

During the five years, 1918 to 1922, practically all cities and villages of the 13 States within the quarantine area have been surveyed. In the original farm-to-farm survey, an area equivalent to 472 counties has been covered. This includes 39 counties surveyed on funds furnished by States. During this 5-year period, 5,829,368 bushes have been found in the different States, as follows: Colorado, 24,001; Illinois, 142,882; Indiana, 96,284; Ioma, 764,096; Michigan, 265,109; Minnesota, 778,977; Montana, 9,027; Nebraska, 88,862; North Dakota, 19,438; Ohio, 230,083; South Dakota, 52,309; Wisconsin, 3,354,155; Wyoming, 4,140. The removals total 5,173,547 bushes. The remaining two-thirds of a million are mostly in one or two small areas of escaped bushes and most of them are seedlings.

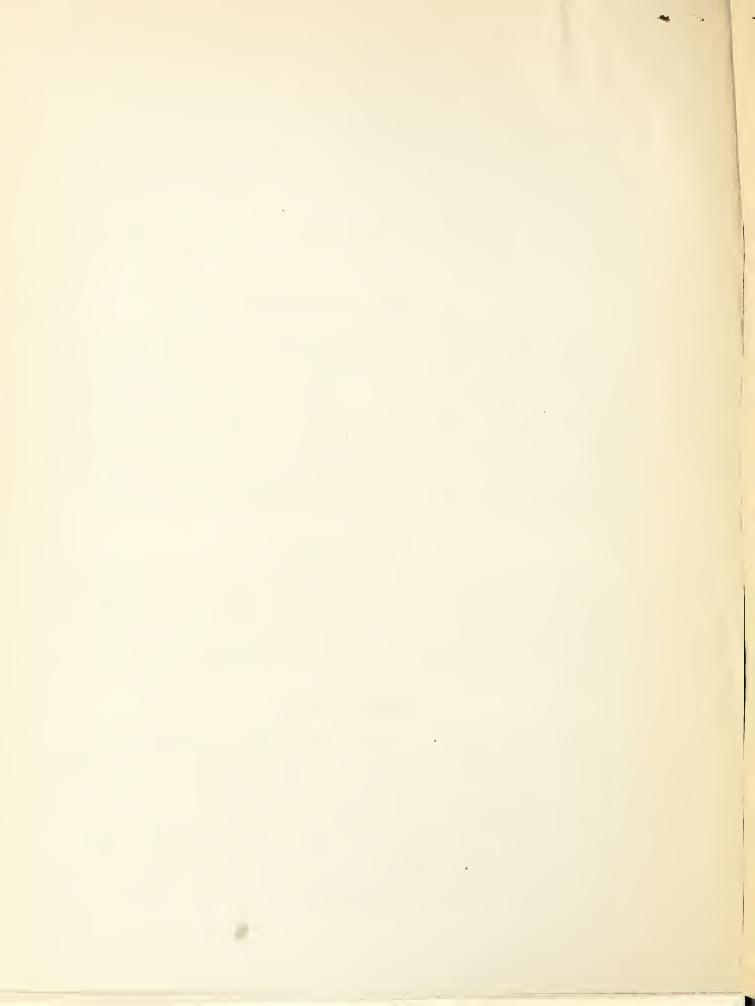


Table 1 shows the survey results by States for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31,1922. Table 2 shows the survey results by States for the 5-year period, April 1, 1918, to December 31,1922. Table 3 shows the results by calendar years for the 5-year period, April 1, 1918, to December 31,1922. Table 4 shows the number of counties covered in the original farm-to-farm survey by States for 6-months periods, January 1, 1919, to December 31,1922, with totals for fiscal years and calendar years.

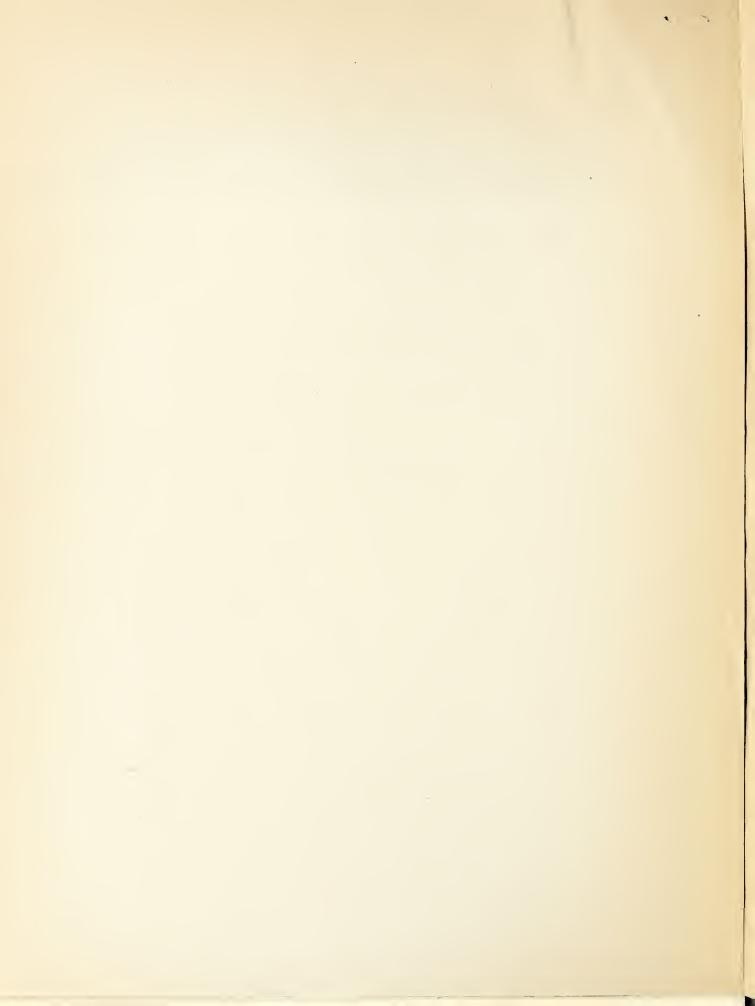


Table 1, Data showing, by States, the number of properties on which barberry bushes were found and the number of bushes located and removed in the barberry eradication campaign from January 1 to December 31, 1922.

Total	Colorado Illinois Indiana Iowa Michigan Minnesota Montana Nebraska No. Dakota Ohio So. Dakota Wisconsin "yoming	State
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133,365	1,004 1,828 3,901 13,750 77,517 21,987 41 2,036 0 853 1,772 3,676	Number of In count Escaped:
189,893	1,093 3,824 7,921 31,439 88,750 34,779 2,138 2,138 3,777 5,990 4,983	of bushes ntry :1
209,397	1,453 8,093 8,550 32,356 93,833 37,669 5,228 6,052 6,052	In both cit
729,721	1,365 14,889 7,662 29,682 101,212 35,716 35,716 2,323 11,071 8,394 509,353	cities and :m country :r country :r
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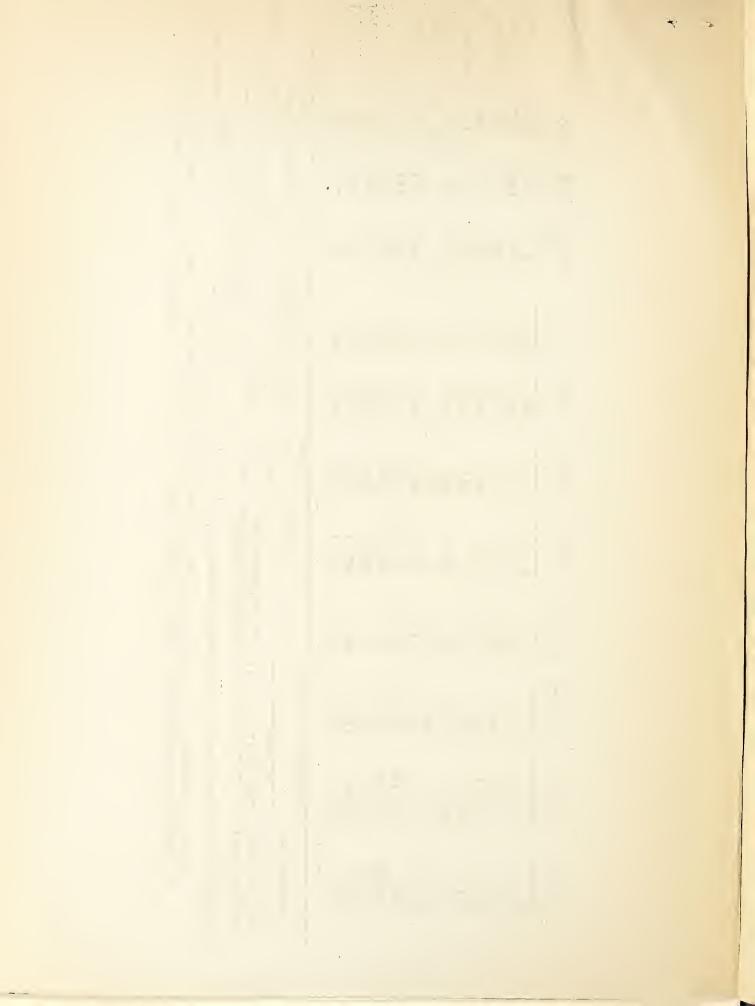


Table 2, Data showing, by States, the number of properties on which barberry bushes were found and the number of bushes located and removed in the barberry eradication campaign from April 1, 1918, to December 31, 1922.

Total	Wisconsin	So. Dakota	Ohio	No. Dakota	Nebraska	Montana	Minnesota	Michigan	Iowa ·	Indiana	Illinois	Colorado			State		
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3,428,550:	1	16,179:	20,627:	150:	5,221:	:24	75,496:	154,477:	50,966:	: 470,8	27,463:	2,415:		Escaped :	••	In countr	Numbe
3,760,351:	3,076,365:	29,802:	29,524:	5,173:	17,321:	2,369:	187,353:	220,666:	120,635:	20,367:	46,113:	: 694, 4		Total :		T.Y	nber of bushes
5,829,368:	3,354,155:	52,309:	230,088:	19,438:	88,862:	9,027:	778,977:	265,109:	764,096:	96,284:	142,882:	: 100, 45	4	Found:	Country.	In both cit	O
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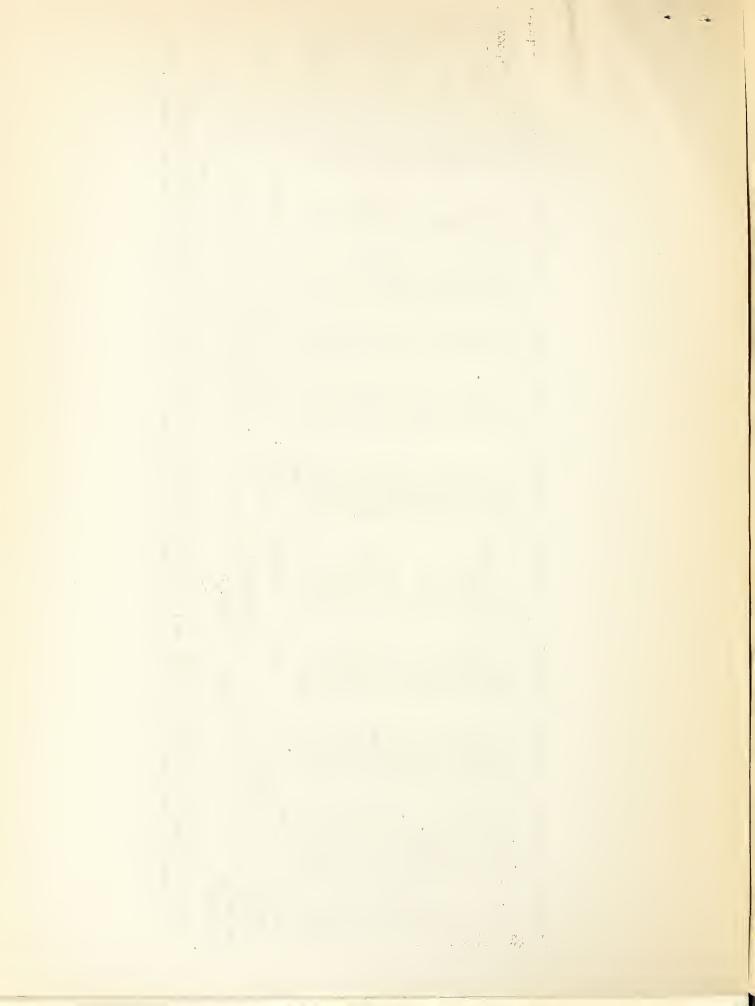


Table 3, Data showing, by calendar years, the number of promerties on which barberry bushes were found and the number of bushes located and removed in the barberry eradication campaign from April 1, 1918, to December 31, 1922.

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	1,690,475	176,341 1,842,239 1,690,475	176,341	77,438	1,665,898	16,764:: 1,665,898	23,210	1,166	127	22,044	(.1918 -
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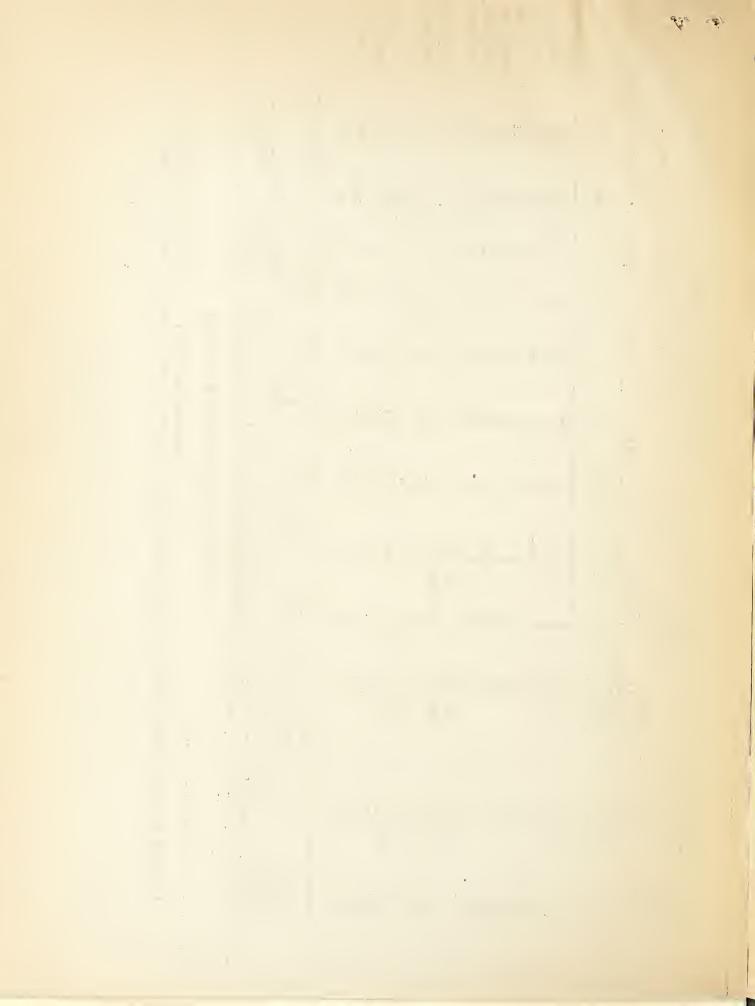
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Table 4, Data showing, by States, in fiscal and in calendar years, the progress of the county survey in barberry eradication from January 1, 1919, to December 31, 1922.

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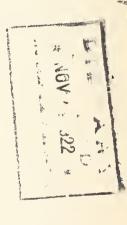


Table 1. Data showing results obtained in the barberry eradication campaign from July 1, 1922 to Oct. 31, 1922.

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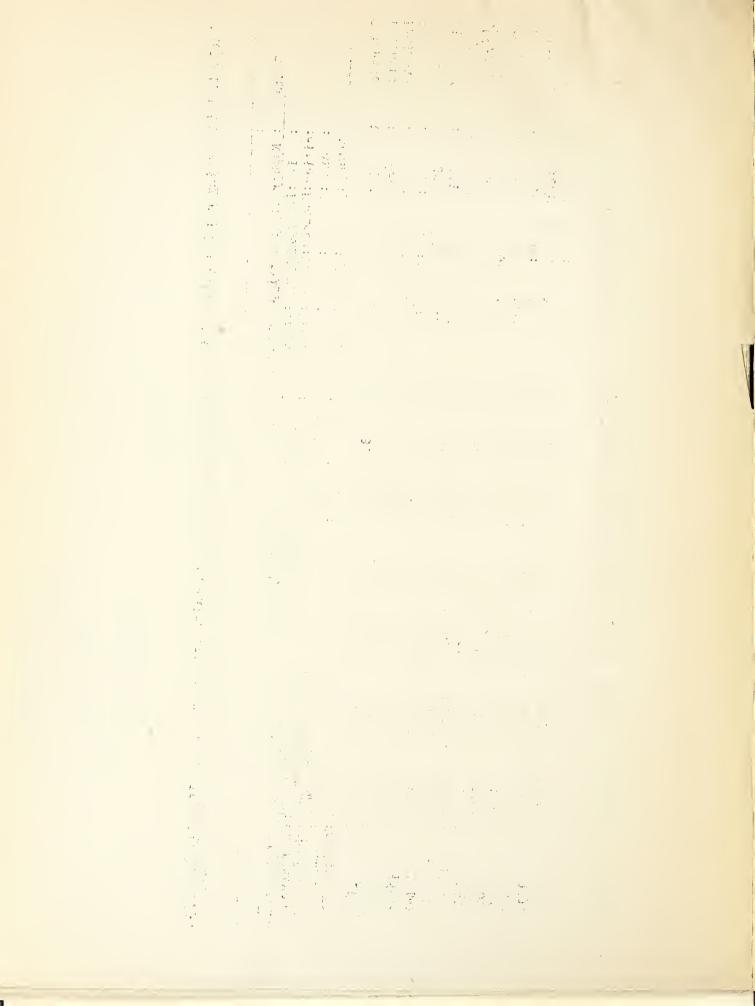


Table 2. Data showing results obtained in the barberry eradication campaign from January 1, 1922 to Oct. 31, 1922.

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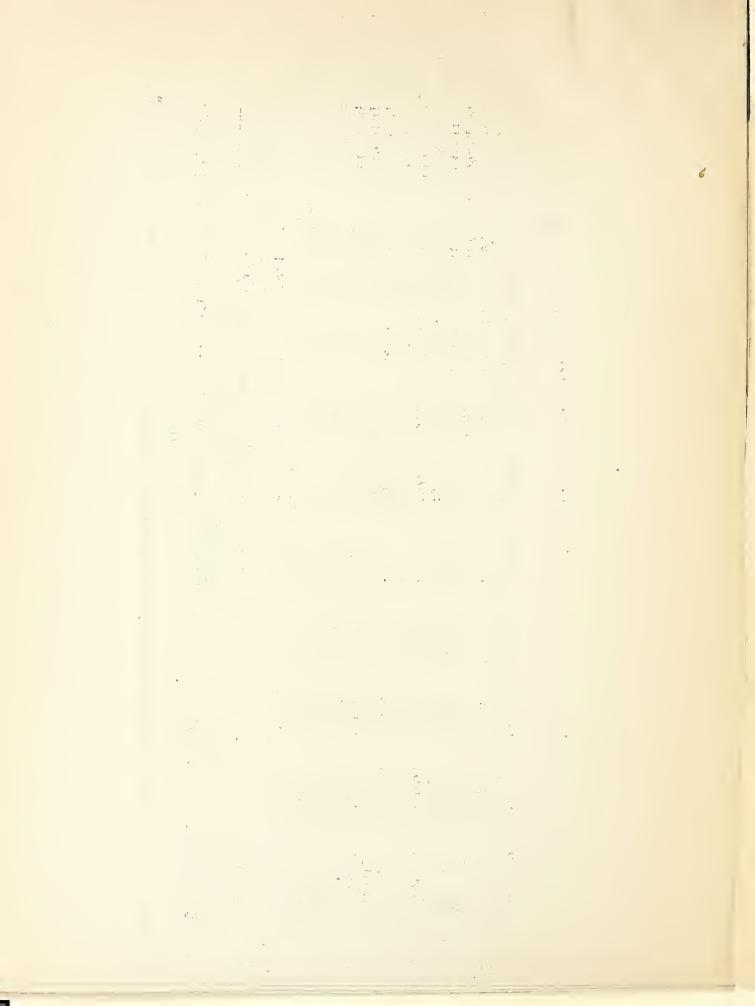


Table 3.

Data showing results obtained in the barberry eradication campaign from April 1, 1918 to Oct. 31, 1922

Colorado Minnesota Michigan Indiana Illinois No. Dakota Nebraska Montana . Wyoming Wisconsin: So. Dakota LOWEL State :cities:Escaped:Total:Proper -: of and Number of properties having bushes: : towns Ĭn 8397: 2949: 1198: 5772 3242 1525 3011: 6084 4926 493: 156: 406 :In country 1039: 3090:12971:55204 458: 320: 112: 347: 584: 30: : 63 : :68 4090 1602: 1552 1074: 1815 **683** 235 456 116: 425 862 48 :Total :Cleared:In :ties 9471: 8324: 8288: 3925: 1641: 3457: 4551: 5788 7899 204: 831: 728 :bushes :and towns: 51383 :2066541 : 3411684:3738694 :5806643 : 3884: 9065 4512: 6438: 8303: 1638: 3152 5137:199587 7532:277181 196 728: 14256 721: 22406 :cities 591242 71452 44337 3946 543378 96764 6658 75822 19512 Number of bushes :Escaped In country 3066142:3074943 154313 : 65132: 48134: 27463 20619: 15454: 3008 2415 3811: 150: 42: :Total 29024 29215 17250 220414 116929 173771: 20254 5168 45102: 2369: 4469: 194 3 :Found :In both cities and :Sprouts found :3352124 142866 750307: 51430 765013 264751: 96076 228802 4140 88702: 23981 19424: 9027: country :Removed 5140343 2785421 763,833 759298: 206303: 215919: 129698 92532 1343 45908: 19424: 88182 23802: 8680: :the resurvey and removed in 139357 34788 35718 16942 16474 11421 3355 4771 3625 4126 1623 634

